



Bureau of Land Management

UTAH
NEWS

VERNAL FIELD OFFICE
170 SOUTH 500 EAST . VERNAL, UT 84078
PHONE (435) 781-4400 . FAX (435) 781-4410
[HTTP://WWW.BLM.GOV/UT/ST/EN.HTML](http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en.html)

For Immediate Release: August 25, 2010
Contact: Mark Wimmer (435) 781-4464

***Bureau of Land Management Announces the Public Scoping Period for
The Monument Butte Area Oil and Gas Development Project
Environmental Impact Statement***

Vernal, Utah—The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Vernal Field Office announced today the beginning of the 30-day public scoping period from August 25, 2010, through September 24, 2010, for the Proposed Monument Butte Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The BLM is currently soliciting public comments to be considered during the drafting of the EIS. During the scoping period, public meetings will be held as follows:

Monday, September 13, 2010
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Duchesne County Building
Commissioner's Chambers
734 N. Center St.
Duchesne, Utah 84021

Monday, September 20, 2010
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Western Park Convention Facility
Conference Room #2
302 East 200 South
Vernal, Utah 84078

The Monument Butte Area covers 119,850 acres located approximately 45 miles southwest of Vernal, Utah, and approximately 10 miles south of Myton, Utah. The EIS describes the potential impacts of the Newfield Exploration Company proposal to develop 5,750 wells in Duchesne and Uintah Counties, Utah. The project summary, the public scoping notice, and map are available on-line at <http://www.blm.gov/ut/st/en/fo/vernal/planning/nepa.html>.

The Monument Butte Area oil and gas field has been largely developed. The proposed action consists of secondary recovery using waterflood methods. Waterflood methods involve the injection of water through formerly producing or new wells into oil-producing geologic formations. As the injected water displaces the oil, nearby actively producing wells receive hydrocarbons through the formation. In addition to waterflood plans, some portions of the project area along the northwest and southern project boundaries would be stepped-out – expanded away from existing development.

The proponent's plan is to drill 5,750 additional wells over a period of 23 years. It is anticipated that an average of 250 wells would be drilled annually.

A phased installation of a field electrification system in the project area is integral to the proposed project. Phased installation would be completed over approximately seven years. Electrical power would then be used to run water treatment and injection facilities, centralized tank batteries, compressor stations, engines and turbines at the proposed gas processing plant, and at most well site facilities to power dehydrators, separators, and pump jacks.

Please reference the Monument Butte EIS when submitting your comments. Comments, including names, e-mail addresses, and street addresses of respondents will be available for public review at the BLM Vernal Field Office during regular business hours (7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday – Friday), except federal holidays. Comments and related personally identifying information will be subject to disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) and comments may be published as part of the EIS and other related documents.

Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to withhold your name, street address, or email address from public review and disclosure under the FOIA, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. All submissions from organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety. The BLM will not accept anonymous comments.

Written comments will be accepted during the public scoping period from August 25, 2010, through September 24, 2010. Please submit written comments to:

Bureau of Land Management
Vernal Field Office
Attn: Mark Wimmer
170 South 500 East
Vernal, UT 84078
Fax: (435) 781-4410
UT_Vernal_Comments@blm.gov

For further information, please contact Mark Wimmer, Environmental Coordinator, at (435) 781-4464.

- BLM -